

*In Essay*  
*On*  
*Chimaphila Umbellata*  
Respectfully submitted to the faculty  
of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of  
Pennsylvania

On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January  
One thousand eight hundred & fifty three

By  
Thos. J. Pratt

of  
Canton

Bradford Co  
Penn<sup>a</sup>

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*Chimaphila Umbellata* is a small evergreen plant, with a perennial, creeping, yellowish root, which sends off numerous radicles.

When chewed, it imparts to the taste a pleasantly bitter, astringent, and sweetish taste, with considerable degree of pungency.

When fresh and bruised, it exhales a peculiar, unpleasant odour.

The stems arise generally several together from the root, are generally erect, though frequently found semi-procumbent. They vary in height from six to ten inches, and are lignous at the base.

The Canes, though generally whorled are sometimes irregularly situated.

They are slightly canceolated, wedge-



shaped, narrowed at the base, deeply serrated on their edges, coriaceous, smooth, and of a deep green colour on the upper surface, paler beneath.

<sup>up</sup>The flowers are terminal, disposed in a small corymb, and supported on nodding peduncles.

<sup>up</sup>The calyx is small, persistent, and divided into five segments.

<sup>up</sup>The corolla is made up of five rounded, concave petals, of a white colour tinged with red, and emit a very agreeable odour.

<sup>up</sup>There are ten stamens, with awl-shaped filaments which are shorter than the petals, with large, bifurcated, purple anthers.

<sup>up</sup>The germ is oval, angular, and of a pale green colour.



The stigma is thick, and stit. perist-  
ant.

The seeds are very numerous and chaffy,  
and enclosed in an oval five-valved calyx.

*Chimaphila* is indigenous  
both in America and Europe.

It grows abundantly in all parts of  
the United States, in pine forests  
and woodlands enriched by the  
decay of successive crops of leaves.

It flourishes with the greatest  
vigor in a cool, sandy, soil, and under  
the shade of trees.

It flowers in June and July.

It is known in the various sections  
of this country by the names of Winter-  
green, Prince's-pine, Ground-holly, Pip-  
iswag, Etc.



All parts of the plant are possessed of active, medicinal properties.

In allopathic practice it has been used as a diuretic, tonic and astringent, more especially as a diuretic.

The following provings were made from a tincture prepared from the entire plant by maceration.

Proving by J. S. Pratt.

Oct 23<sup>d</sup> 1852. Took 5 drops M. Tincture at 9 o'clock P.M.

24<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. Feeling of fullness and pressure in the head, with sharp stitches in the left temple, and over the left eye, relieved by walking in the open air. In the afternoon slight vertigo with a feeling of sickness and



trembling. 24<sup>th</sup> Repeated the dose at 2 P.M.  
25<sup>th</sup> Dull heavy feeling of the head coming  
on soon after rising and continuing all  
day. with sharp stitches through the  
head worse in left temple and over the left  
eye better in the open air. Sharp cutting  
pains in the right knee. Fullness and  
pressure at the root of the nose. Erratic  
stitches worse in the chest and extremities  
Oct 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 P.M. Took ten drops

Was very restless through the night with  
nausea and headache. 26<sup>th</sup> Headache  
continued becoming worse in the afternoon  
with trembling and nausea. Dull compress-  
ive feeling in the chest. with shooting cutting  
pains in various parts. Esp. in the chest and  
extremities. Weakness of the lower extremities  
when walking. Soreness of the left fore arm  
as if bruised. Bitter taste in the mouth



in the evening

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Repeated the dose at 9 A.M.

Feeling of warmth in the stomach soon after taking the medicine with nausea, and headache, continuing all day. Sensation of coldness and shuddering in the lower extremities when sitting with beating or pulsation in the thorax and abdomen

Itching and pricking of the skin esp. in a warm room with small red pimples on the face and neck

1 O'clock P.M. Sharp lancinating pain in the region of the heart shooting to the left shoulder and down left ~~fore~~ arm  
Dull aching feeling in the whole chest with short hacking cough excited by tickling in the chest. worse in the evening  
28<sup>th</sup> Took 20 drops at 9 A.M.



Violent headache all day with cutting  
erratic pains worse in the extremities  
chest and head. Feeling of pressure in  
the temples from without inwards as if  
they would be pressed in. Sensation of heaviness  
and weight of the right arm. Oppression  
of the chest with dull aching uneasy feeling  
through the whole thorax. dry hacking  
cough excited by tickling at the top of  
the sternum. Cutting erratic pains in every  
part of the system worse in the afternoon  
and relieved by walking in the open air

29<sup>th</sup> Hemoptysis of a small quantity of bright  
red blood when first rising in the morning  
with dull aching pains in the chest

At 4 O'clock P.M. Dull compressive feeling  
in the left chest near the center of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
and 7<sup>th</sup> ribs occasionally extending around to  
the right hypochondrium and back to the



Spine giving the sensation of a band around the chest and causing me to bend over towards the left side. which changed towards evening to a dull, compressive, pain in the whole thorax with short dry cough occasioned by a sensation of dryness in the chest. Small red pimples on the face neck and back which bleed easily when scratched remaining for several days. Pimples on the hands principally between the fingers filled with a watery fluid which remained about two days.

<sup>up</sup>The above symptoms were felt more or less for about six days when they disappeared entirely.



Proving by Geo W. Anghouse

Oct-25<sup>th</sup> 1852. Took five drops of Tincture of *Chenopodium* at 9 o'clock P.M.

Awoke about 12 o'clock at night with pain in the back part of the head and right elbow was very restless during the remainder of the night.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> Had violent headache with sharp cutting pains in the superior maxillary of left side and in the temple and eye of the same side with nausea and sensation of shuddering in the teeth like that caused by filing or sawing.

Repeated the dose on 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 P.M.

Was very restless and uneasy during the night with frequent starting from sleep.

27<sup>th</sup> Burning pains in the left chest. sharp cutting pains in the left elbow shooting down

the arm to the fingers. Lancing pains  
in the left side shooting up to the shoulder  
Burning in the region of the kidneys with  
a sick faint feeling and frequent sudden  
eruptive eruption of dark coloured urine

Aching lame feeling of the left foot and  
ankle with a dull heavy pain commen-  
cing in the left chest and extending to  
the right with a sensation of burning  
over the whole body

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Took len drops at 10 P.M.

28<sup>th</sup> Dull heavy pain in the whole upper  
part of the chest extending down to the  
center of the sternum with occasional  
sharp stiches through the chest and  
oppression of breathing

Sensation of a band around the head with  
acute cutting pains in the left temple  
shooting to the left eye and ear and down



The back of the neck

Sharp cutting pain in the lumbar region  
extending down the course of the ureter  
with frequent and scanty emission of dark  
red urine which continued for several days after  
taking the medicine

Proving by a large dose

Took *Chenopodium* several times during  
a week

The first symptom noticed was to fre-  
quent and scanty emission of clear watery  
urine. Afterwards weakness of the joint  
top of the knee when walking, pain in  
the knee joint and small joints excited by  
walking. Stitches in the temples.  
Weakness at the stomach a short time after  
taking a dose of the medicine. Great thirst  
soon in the night.

Proving by J. C. C. Sparks  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1862 Air line 100 ft. at  
11:00 A.M.

Produced soon after taking lying in the  
throat with nausea which lasted sometime  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Headache in the occiput on rising  
in the morning lasting a few hours

9 A.M. Took five drops, nausea and feeling  
of weakness and dizziness all day with some  
pain in the head worse from looking lar-  
ge at anything. Aching deep in the eyes  
Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Pimples came out over the face  
esp. on the eyebrows and root of the nose  
which remained several days



## Summary

### Symptoms of the Head

Fullness and pressure in the head with sharp lancinating pains, mostly in the left temple and over the left eye which are relieved by walking in the open air. Full heavy feeling in the head. Pressure in the temples from without inward, sensation of a band around the head. Shooting pains in the left temple extending to the ear and eye of the same side and down the back of the neck. Headache which is aggravated by looking steadily at anything.

### Eyes

acute cutting pains in the left eye.  
nothing deep in the eyes

## Mouth and Throat

Burning in the throat. Bitter taste in the mouth

## Gastric Symptoms

Sick faint feeling in the stomach

Feeling of warmth in the stomach with nausea nausea lasting all day

## Hypochondria and Abdomen

Beating or pulsation in the abdomen

Burning in the lumbar region. Sharp cutting pains in the right lumbar region extending down the course of the ureter

## Urinary Organs

Frequent and scanty emission of watery urine  
Emission of dark coloured urine



## Upper Extremities

Erratic stitches in the arms. Lancinating pains in the left shoulder extending down the arm. Lancinating in the elbow. Lancinating in the left elbow extending down the arm to the fingers. Feeling of weight and heaviness of the right arm. Soreness of the left fore arm as if bruised.

## Lower Extremities

Sharp cutting pains in the right knee. Weakness of the legs esp. when walking. Erratic stitches in the legs which are relieved by walking. feeling of coldness and shuddering of the lower extremities when sitting. Aching lame feeling in the left foot and ankle. Weakness of the knee when walking. pains in the knee, ankle, and small joints, excited by walking.

# Chest

Cutting, erratic, pains in the chest:  
dull aching pains in the chest with  
oppression when rising in the morning.

Sharp lancinating in the region of  
the heart. Shooting to left shoulder  
throbbing in the the thorax.

Haemoptysis of bright red blood when rising  
in the morning with dull aching pains  
through the whole chest. Dry <sup>shaking</sup> cough  
excited by tickling in the chest.

Dull compressive pain in the left chest at  
the center of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ribs occasionally  
extending nearly around the chest giving the  
sensation of a band around the chest, which  
changed towards evening to a dull compressive  
feeling in the whole thorax, with short dry  
cough, excited by feeling of dryness in the chest.  
Burning pain in the left chest.



## Sleep

Frequent waking from sleep. with rest  
lessness and tossing about

## <sup>in</sup> Fever

Burning over the whole body esp at night

## Skin

Biting and itching over the body worse  
at night. Small red pimples on the face  
which bleed easily. Watery blisters on the  
hands esp. between the fingers

I regret very much the imperfections of  
the proving. but owing to unavoidable circum-  
stances it is the best I could obtain

Respectfully Submitted  
J. J. P.